



Ontario Connecting More People to Primary Care Teams in Northeastern Ontario

NEWS RELEASE

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TIMMINS – The Ontario government is investing \$5,915,793 for new primary care teams including \$1,373,500 million for Timmins and Porcupine. This is part of Ontario’s \$110 million investment to connect up to 328,000 people to primary care teams, bringing the province one step closer to connecting everyone in Ontario to primary care.

“As a northerner, I am proud that our government is investing \$5,915,793 to connect more people to primary care teams in Northeastern Ontario, including \$1,373,500 to help over 10,000 people from Timmins and Porcupine access local primary care,” said George Pirie, MPP for Timmins. “This investment and commitment to improve healthcare in northern communities shows that our government is working to connect people from each corner of the province to the primary care that every Ontarian needs.”

Ontario currently leads the country with 90 per cent of people connected to a regular health care provider. As a next step to close the gap for people not connected to primary care in the community, the province is supporting new and expanded interprofessional primary care teams in Timmins and Northeastern Ontario.

Across Northeastern Ontario, this funding will allow communities like Timmins to expand their facilities:

Family Health Team	Expansion or new	Funding	Estimated new patients served	Community Served
Weeneebayko Area Health Authority	New	\$922,635	2,275	Moosonee and James Bay Coast
Elliot Lake FHT	Expansion- New Site	\$474,872	3,400	Elliot Lake, Town of Spanish
Timmins Academic FHT	Expansion- Existing Location	\$643,500	4,300	Timmins
Centre de Santé Univi Health Centre	Expansion- Existing Location	\$617,500	2,275	Sudbury District, French River



Haileybury FHT, Kirkland Lake FHT, Temagami Medical Centre and FHT, Great Northern FHT, Cobalt Medical Clinic, Latchford Medical Centre	Expansion-Existing Location	\$573,143	3,400	Haileybury, Kirkland Lake, Cobalt, Latchford
Northeastern Manitoulin FHT, Manitoulin Central FHT, Municipality of Assiginack FHT	Expansion-Existing Location	\$355,000	2,400	Manitoulin Island
Weeneebayko Area Health Authority	New	\$528,143	2,275	Moosonee and James Bay Coast
East End Family Health Team	Expansion-Existing Location	\$470,000	4,400	Porcupine
Centre de santé communautaire de Kapuskasing et région, Kapuskasing and Area FHT	New	\$355,000	2,600	Kapuskasing
Centre de Santé Univi Health Centre	Expansion-Existing Location	\$306,000	2,400	Sudbury District, French River
Timmins Academic Family Health Team	Expansion-Existing Location	\$260,000	2,200	Timmins
Chapleau and District Family Health Team	Expansion-Existing Location	\$180,000	2,200	Chapleau
Wawa Family Health Team	Expansion-Existing Location	\$180,000	2,200	Wawa
Haileybury FHT, Kirkland Lake FHT, Temagami Medical Centre and FHT, Great Northern FHT, Cobalt Medical Clinic, Latchford Medical Centre	Expansion-Existing Location	\$50,000	690	Haileybury, Kirkland Lake, Cobalt, Latchford
Total		\$5,915,793	37,015	Northeastern Ontario

Interprofessional primary care teams connect people to a range of health professionals that work together under one roof, including doctors, nurse practitioners, registered and practical nurses, physiotherapists, social workers and dietitians, among others. Timely access to primary care helps people stay healthier for longer with faster diagnosis and



treatment, as well as more consistent support managing their day-to-day health while relieving pressures on emergency departments and walk-in clinics.

“Our government is making record investments to ensure that everyone that wants to have a primary care provider can connect to one,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “While there is more work to do, giving hundreds of thousands of more Ontarians the opportunity to connect to primary care brings us that much closer to this goal.”

In addition to other historic investments to expand medical school spots and efforts to break down barriers so highly-skilled internationally-trained doctors can care for people in Ontario, Ministry of Health modelling shows that these initiatives will help connect up to 98 per cent of people in Ontario to primary care in the next several years.

Since the launch of Your Health: [Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care](#) one year ago, the government has been making steady progress to ensure the health care system has become better equipped to respond to the needs of patients and provide them with the right care in the right place, faster access to services and access to an expanded health care workforce.

QUICK FACTS

- As a next step to close the gap for the 1.3 million people not connected to primary care in the province, the government is making a record investment of \$90 million to add over 400 new primary care providers as part of 78 new and expanded interprofessional primary care teams. The new and expanded teams will include Family Health Teams, Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics, Community Health Centres and Indigenous Primary Health Care Organizations.
- Ontario’s investment of \$90 million dollars triples the original \$30 million dollars earmarked to expand interprofessional primary care teams and will deliver over four times as many initiatives as outlined in our Your Health Plan almost a year ago.
- The new and expanded teams are the result of a province-wide call for proposals that took place in 2023. All proposals were thoroughly reviewed by Ontario Health based on criteria prioritizing areas of greatest need, to connect a greater number of people currently without a regular primary care provider with these services closer to home.
- Ontario is the first province to have a publicly funded Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic program. This is in addition to the new Practice Ready Ontario Program that will add 50 new physicians this year.



- Ontario leads the country in how many people benefit from a long-term, stable relationship with a family doctor or primary care provider. Since 2018 the province has added over 80,000 new nurses and 10,300 new physicians to the health care system.
- Ontario invests over \$1 billion in interprofessional primary care teams annually.

QUOTES

“Northern College and the East End Family Health Team are thrilled to be receiving \$470,000 to expand our interprofessional team and help attach more patients to primary care services. We have been anxiously waiting for this announcement, knowing that many of our community members will benefit from these expanded services.”

- Mitch Dumas, Interim President & CEO of Northern College

“We are pleased to receive funds to expand our multidisciplinary care team to connect people from our community to primary care services. Since our inception, this is the largest increase that provides us with the opportunity to expand our services. This is one step in the right direction to improve access to primary care.”

- Mélanie Ciccone, Executive Director, Timmins Academic Family Health Team

“This investment is a big step forward in improving healthcare access for our community. It strengthens our ability to provide comprehensive care and brings it closer to home, addressing the challenges of travelling long distances for treatment. We thank the government for supporting primary care initiatives and are committed to fostering healthier communities.”

- Denis Beaula, from Centre de santé communautaire de Kapuskasing et région, Kapuskasing and Area Family Health Team

“The Elliot Lake Family Health Team is grateful for the money that has been awarded to our organization. This funding will be used to help expand and improve upon our existing interprofessional team. The need in our community for improved access to primary care has been a significant issue and we are excited by the prospect this funding brings to improve access. We would like to thank the Ontario government for recognizing the needs of our community and we look forward to putting this money to good use.”

- Nancy Ewen, Executive Director, Elliot Lake Family Health Team

“We are very happy and grateful for the investment of the Ontario government in primary care and our team in Wawa.”

- Silvana Dereski, Executive Director, Wawa Family Health Team



“Centre de santé Univi Health centre is incredibly grateful to the Minister of Health Sylvia Jones and the government of Ontario for their support to increase access to team based primary care for people living in the north. This funding will considerably improve care for people living in the rural municipalities of the French River, St. Charles and Markstay Warren area. Improving healthcare access for our francophone and aging population, unattached and most vulnerable in the area demonstrates this government’s genuine dedication to address healthcare gaps and improve health outcomes in the province and specifically in rural northern communities where access is limited.

This investment in the expansion of team-based care will support services currently provided at the Centre de santé Univi Health Centre that focuses on primary care, illness prevention, health promotion and community capacity building. The interprofessional primary care team that includes Nurse Practitioners, Physicians, Registered nurses, Social Workers, community health workers, among others who provide comprehensive, coordinated, primary health care address very complex conditions and issues, in addition to dealing with the impact of the determinants of health. Increased resources in primary care will help to provide timely access that helps reduce hospital admissions and for people to stay healthier for longer in their homes. This funding will impact the lives of patients and provide support to alleviate pressures to the health care system and contribute to peoples well being. We are absolutely ecstatic to hear of this investment in our community.”

- Nicolle Plante-Dupuis, Executive Director, Centre de Santé Univi Health Centre

“On behalf of the Northeastern Manitoulin Family Health Team, the Manitoulin Central Family Health Team and the Municipality of Assiginack Family Health Team, we are grateful to receive additional funding to increase patient access to primary care teams.”

- Judy Miller, Executive Director, Northeastern Manitoulin Family Health Team

“I truly appreciate this investment in primary care by the government of Ontario. This funding will help improve access to care in our region while relieving some of the pressure on our health system.”

- Lynne Innes, President and CEO, Weeneebayko Area Health Authority

“We are very happy with the additional investment in primary care. This funding will certainly help to improve access to primary care services in the District of Timiskaming, including Temagami.”

- Deborah Kersley, Executive Director, Haileybury Family Health Team

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